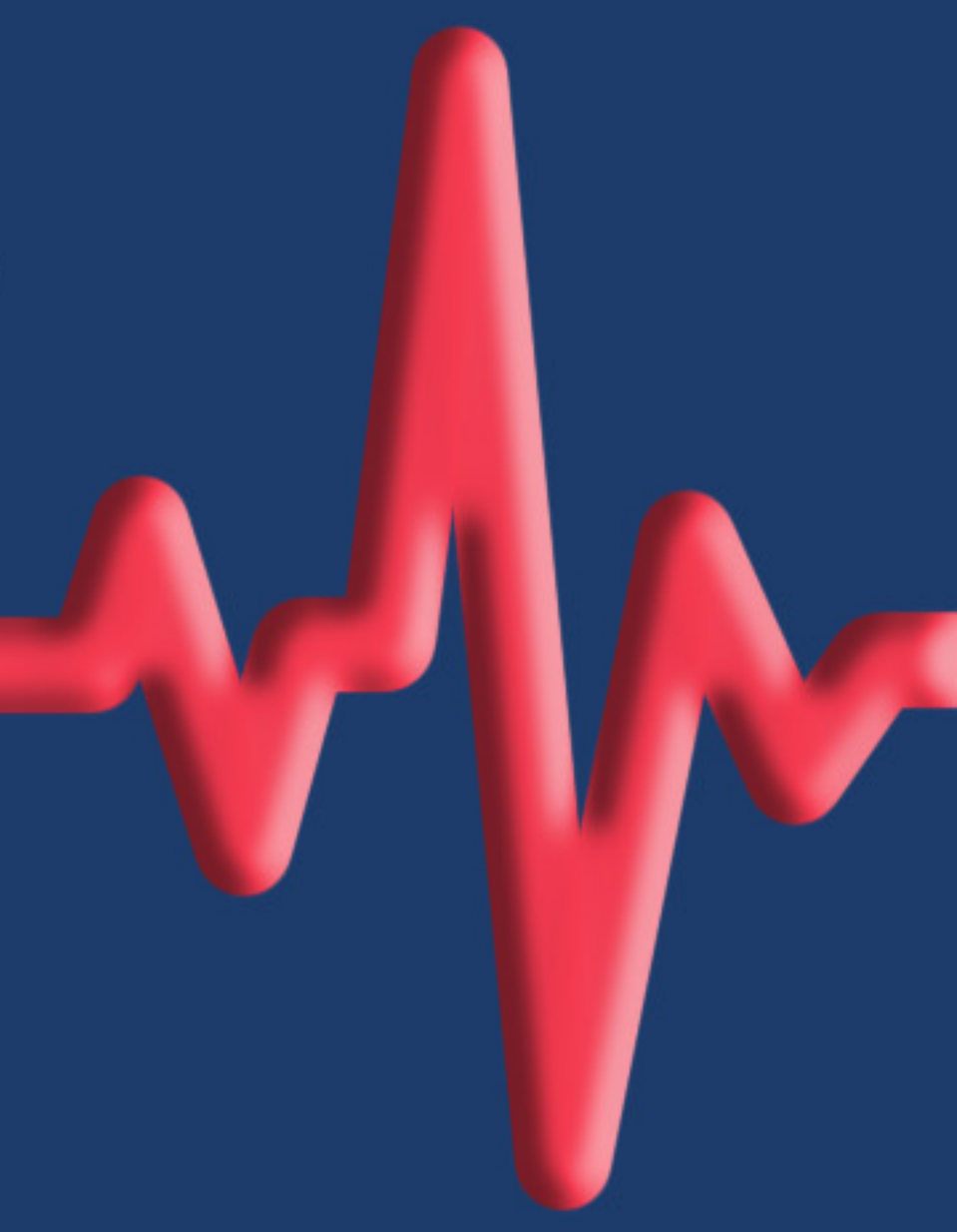




THE PULSE



Outreach Events

Enrollment Fair at Johnstown Outpatient Clinic:

-Wednesday, September, 21, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at 598 Galleria Dr., Johnstown

Veterans are welcome to come and get the benefits they deserve for serving our Nation. Every Veteran who enrolls will receive a free ticket voucher to attend any Johnstown Tomahawks game this season.

Photo Spotlight



Above: Altoona VAMC's Women's Equality team prepares to raise the Women's Equality Flag, recognizing that the VAMC welcomes all who served the Nation.

Below: VA staff connect the Veteran community to benefits at Altoona Curve Game



**URGENT
CARE
CENTER**

VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center

OPEN 24 HOURS / 7 DAYS A WEEK

Above: VA UCC Opens 24/7

James E. Van Zandt VAMC Urgent Care Center Now Open 24/7

By: Evan Hinkley

On August, 1, 2022, the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center proudly announced that its Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) is open 24 hours, 7 days a week, including holidays.

"Opening our Urgent Care Clinic 24/7 allows us to care for our Nation's Heroes whenever they are in need," said Ms. Sigrid Andrew, James E. Van Zandt VAMC Director, "this is an important step in our mission of expanding services for the Veterans in our community – allowing them to Choose our VA around-the-clock."

Director Andrew added that opening the UCC 24/7 reflects the dedication of staff to serve community Veterans. Veterans visiting the facility's UCC, located in the Altoona Medical Center, can receive care for minor illnesses or injuries much faster than in an emergency room. Prior to the announcement, the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center UCC operated 12 hours every day.

During the last three years, the facility has grown more than 50 services, added 300 personnel, and expanded its infrastructure foot print by adding 70,000 sq. feet of additional clinical and administrative space.



VA Encourages Local Landlords to Advocate for Homeless Vets

By: Evan Hinkley

In response to the ongoing affordable housing crisis, the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center is encouraging local landlords to partner with its homeless Veterans program — which provides rental subsidies and landlord support for approximately 84 Veterans and their families within their 14-county catchment area.

The program is currently facing challenges due to increases in rent and growth in inflation rates and emboldens landlords to consider opening their homes up to a Veteran family.

It's important that communities nationwide work together to keep our Veterans in safe and stable homes. Our mission is to help all Veterans within our 14-county catchment area and this program, we would be able to help Veterans get back on their feet.

There are benefits of renting to homeless Veterans, including: services provided for Veterans placed in permanent housing to support their housing stability, reliable income from subsidies where a portion of the rent is automatically paid on-time to landlords by a public housing authority or a VA grantee., support from VA case management to connect landlords and Veterans with help they may need, and finally - making a positive impact in changing a Veteran's life.

Over the past several years, James E. Van Zandt has successfully housed over 1,878 Veterans in its community through VA's permanent housing programs. To ensure at-risk Veterans are protected from this housing crisis, VA has established a nationwide goal to house 38,000 homeless Veterans during calendar year 2022.

Altoona and surrounding community property owners interested in helping Veterans can reach out to Beth Farabaugh at: Bethany.Farabaugh@va.gov, 814-943-8164, ext.18526 for more information.